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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Rachid SBIAA et al.

Group Art Unit: 2652

Application No.: 10/668,998

Examiner: D. Davis

Filed: September 24, 2003

Docket No.: 117235

For: THIN-FILM MAGNETIC HEAD WITH CURRENT-PERPENDICULAR-TO-THE-PLANE

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the March 30, 2005 Restriction and Election of Species Requirement,

Applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-7 and Species I, Figures 1-11 (which are read upon by elected claims 1-7), with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims and species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims and species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims and species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions". It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present

application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

An Information Disclosure Statement with Form PTO-1449 was filed in the above-captioned patent application on February 17, 2004. The Examiner is requested to consider the reference and initial and return to the undersigned a copy of the Form PTO-1449.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:MMI/ccs

Date: May 2, 2005

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